

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-31 remain active in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

In the Official Action the examiner objects to claims 1-5 and 16 as lacking clarity. These claims are above amended to address the examiner's concerns. In addition, multiply dependent claims, some of which were improper, have been adjusted to be singly dependent. If, for any reason, these amendments do not resolve the issues discussed on page 2 of the Official Action the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Claims 1-6, 8, 11, 12, 21-30 and 31 are the subject of a provisional double-patenting rejection over claims 1-12 of co-pending application Serial No. 10/050,183.

The same claims are also the subject of a provisional double-patenting rejection over claims 1-12 of co-pending application Serial No. 10/687,816.

In response to these provisional double-patenting rejections, attached hereto are Terminal Disclaimers in respect of Serial Nos. 10/050,183 and 10/687,816. Accordingly, these provisional objections should be withdrawn and claims 1-31 allowed.

If there are any questions or the examiner requires further information, please contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Arthur R. Crawford
Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:eaw
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100